from India to Pakistan, Government extends all required assistance: obtains approval of the Government of Pakistan for the visit of each Jatha; coordinates with various State Governments/Ministries/Authorities and forwards the lists of intending pilgrims to the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi for visas; arranges with the Ministry of Railways special train services for the pilgrims both for onward/return journey; expedites release of foreign exchange from Reserve Bank of India as a special case in view of the fact that permission for Jathas is given at short notice and visas are stamped on the pilgrims' passports just one or two days prior to the departure of the Jathas; attaches a Liaison Officer from the High Commission of India in Islamabad to render assistance to the visiting pilgrims, etc.

5. Government intends to continue providing facilities mentioned above to these passengers.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Station

6039. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any Nuclear Power Station in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to availability of coal resources in the Eastern Region of which West Bengal is a part, the priority for setting up of nuclear power station in West Bengal is relatively low as compared to the regions away from the coal belt.

Rural Credit Structure

6040. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials of the Reserve Bank of India sent abroad by the Government to study the rural credit structure of financial assistance by World Bank to regional rural banks; and

(b) details of the report/recommendations made by each such team sent abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a)and (b) A senior official from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was one of the members of a delegation from Government which visited Washington during November, 1996 for discussions with the World Bank Group on Rural Finance Reform in India. A key objective of the visit was to hold discussions on possible World Bank support for a comprehensive rural finance reform programme. The discussions with the World Bank Group were exploratory in nature and covered various aspects of the rural finance reform process.

P.F. Fund

6041. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defaulters who have not deposited the amount of Employees Provident Fund during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the defaulters and amount outstanding against each of them; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulters, for realisation of the dues ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The available information is given in the attached statement.

(b) The total amount of EPF dues outstanding against the EPF defaulters during the last three years was as under:

Year	Amount of Default (Rs. in crore)
1993-94	357.04
1994-95	347.33
1995-96	421.40

As the number of defaulters is quite large it is somewhat difficult to furnish their individual details.

(c) Necessary legal and penal action as provided U/s 7A, 8B, 14 and 14B of the EPF and MP Act and where necessary also U/s 406/409 of the IPC is taken to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulters.

Statement

Name of the Region	Number of Defaulting Establishments		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	971	647	743
Bihar	1139	1304	1349
Delhi	456	536	500
Gujarat	282	274	209
Haryana	360	464	525
Karnataka	409	413	424
Kerala	503	388	464
Madhya Pradesh	693	667	505
Maharashtra	876	768	893
North Eastern Region	145	144	124
Orissa	390	343	275
Punjab	1329	1389	1139
Rajasthan	490	546	577
Tamil Nadu	1316	1525	1281
Uttar Pradesh	1230	1352	1458
West Bengal	1232	1216	1216
	11821	11976	11682